

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
VILLAGE OF STEGER, WILL & COOK  
COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**

The Board of Trustees convened in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024 in the Municipal Building of the Village of Steger, Illinois. Mayor Peterson led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The roll was called. The following Trustees were present; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier, and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson was present. Trustees Stewart and Joyce were absent.

Also present: Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen, Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper, Fire Chief Mike Long, Police Chief Greg Smith, EMA Chief Jason Stevenson, Community Center Director Diana Rossi, and Village Attorney James Vasselli.

**AWARDS, HONORS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

None.

**MINUTES**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1st Village Board meeting as all members have copies. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Jeff Watson of 3749 Union Ave. came before the Village Board to ask if anything can be done to clean up the property on Union Ave. south of his property. Mr. Watson described the area of unlicensed autos and other stuff. Dave Toepper explained that the owner has been in the process of cleaning up other properties he owns along Richton Road and says he is working on the Union Ave. property. Mr. Toepper explained that the Village has been battling this issue for many years. Mayor Peterson asked that Ordinance Officer Mike Triumph pay a visit to the landowner. Mr. Watson commended the police department for recent efforts in his neighborhood, but asked if they could monitor speed of vehicles during rush hour.

Matt Polanski of 3221 Butler Ave. came for information regarding viewing Village Ordinances online. Dave Toepper responded you can go to [municode.com](http://municode.com) and search Steger, Illinois or you can view them on the Village website.

## **REPORTS**

**Village Administrator Mary Jo Seehausen** I just have a couple of things. First off, we have our renewal for our Medical. We came in with very small increases. We will host our open enrollment May 13-29 for active participants. We were at 2.4% for HMO and 4.7% for PPO. There is no increase in our dental or vision.

We had bid openings on April 1<sup>st</sup> for our drainage project and we are still going through that. We plan to have something in front of the board at our next meeting.

ComEd was on sight last week and they are doing the design plan for the water tower. They have applied for the necessary permits from the two railroads that they need approval from. It was nice to see that they are moving along in the design phase. They are 4 to 5 months out on flagging with the railroad and there can be delays if changes occur with the railroad.

Finally, I would like to give my thoughts and prayers to the Kozy Family.

**Director of Public Infrastructure Dave Toepper** We've been out flushing hydrants for a week or so. Not sure we will finish this week depending on the weather. Code Enforcement has been out chasing a lot of things.

**Chief Michael Long** For the month of March we had a total of 183 calls: 27 Fire, 156 Medical and 42 Mutual Aid. Lt. Stevenson has passed her Firefighter Class.

**Police Chief Greg Smith** We have an officer graduating the Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy. I will be in attendance for that then he will begin his field training program. The entire department did training this month pretactical stops for pedestrians and motorists. Half the department did handgun qualifications, the other half will be doing it later this month. DC Fajman and I attended a meeting to meet the new Superintendent of School District 194. Detective Darge and I attended the monthly Bloom Trail Security meeting. Detective Darge attended a class on Cold Case Review.

**EMA Chief Jason Stevenson** No report.

**Community Center Director Diana Rossi** For the last couple of weeks, the Community Center has been very busy. We have had 1,045 people through the doors. Basketball had their main banquet and that all went well. Today was the last day to sign up for T-ball. Sign-up for Softball is finished also and so is baseball. They are still taking registration for cheerleading and football.

**Village Attorney** No report.

**Treasurer** Just want to note: The month of January numbers were a bit misleading. You may recall in 2022 the real estate taxes were delayed and we did not get them until 2023 from Cook County. So, we saw a surplus in 2023, but we will not see that this year. One of the key factors I want to note is year to date key revenue comparisons: The sales

tax numbers are right in line with where we were in 2023. On income tax, we are going to see a vast improvement; at the current pace we should see a 16% increase. I have one note in regard to the Cook County Assessors office taking applications for Veteran's Tax Savings. Those interested can find applications online to find which exemptions they might be eligible to receive. They are hosting an event: this coming Friday the Veteran's Exemption Workshop will be held from 10-12 at the Chicago Heights Vet Center located at 1010 Dixie Hwy.

**MAYORS REPORT** I want to reiterate my prayers to the Kozy Family. I would like to take time to tell all the Departments that I have noticed there has been a lot of increased activity and I really do appreciate the responses whether a situation at the Colonies or the medical situations. I know that we have been very busy. Dave you are picking up too. Thank you so much for all your efforts. Thank you Diane for keeping the Community Center going.

Village Administrator Seehausen added: This Saturday is our Clean-up day on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It will run from 9 am until noon. We are still looking for volunteers. We will be starting out at Fire Station #2 at 3322 Emerald Ave.

**VILLAGE CLERK** No report.

### **TRUSTEES REPORTS**

**Trustee Thurmond:** There is a meet and greet for Dr. Anthony McConnell, the new Superintendent for school district 194 at Columbia Central School Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 4pm to 6pm. Enter the front door for the event.

I plan to attend this year's IML lobby day in Springfield this coming Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Discussion Topics, Local Government Distributive Funds (LGDF)

Grocery Tax

Public Safety Pension Reform

There will be a Blood Drive May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Crete Fire Station 524 W Exchange from 9am to 3pm. In honor of Mike Einhorn, Village of Crete Mayor.

Crete Township is having a special meeting Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7pm at the Sertoma Star building located at 25930 S. Cottage Grove Ave. in Crete. The purpose of the meeting is for Electors to consider acquiring the 30,000 square foot building and 13 acres it sits on to be used as the location for a Crete Township Community Center. Last summer the township applied for a federal grant and was awarded \$822,676.00 to be used for a community center. This award is contingent on Crete Township to provide some required items by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Along with the ARPA grant and Townships Capital Improvement Fund this property could be purchased without debt. This meeting affects the Will County side of Steger.

Trustee Perchinski questioned the viability of this purchase for Will County. Mayor Peterson also questioned the viability of this purchase. Mayor Peterson added that it is

unfortunate that Crete Township cannot offer the services our residents see in Bloom Township.

### **BILLS**

Trustee Lopez made a motion to pay all bills as listed when funds become available. Trustee Perchinski seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to approve an agreement with Placer Software. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Lopez, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Trustee Thurmond abstained. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1185: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND FIREFIGHTING STAFFING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF STEGER AND METRO PRAMEDIC SERVICES, INC. FOR THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, ILLINOIS. Trustee Thurmond seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 1186: A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF STEGER, COOK AND WILL COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, TO INDUCE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY WITHIN THE TIF DISTRICT #5/CHICAGO ROAD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA. Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Roll was called. The following Trustees voted aye; Thurmond, Lopez, Trotier and Perchinski. Mayor Peterson voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion on Parking on Hopkins Ave. Trustee Thurmond stated there have been several occasions of people parking on the walking path that goes along Hopkins in this

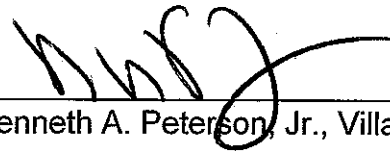
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area. Dave Toepper explained the signage that currently show this as a "No Parking" zone. He is going to look into improving signage to help eliminate parking along this path and in designated "Handicap" areas without Handicap stickers. Mayor Peterson also suggested that Police make a habit of checking this area for illegally parked vehicles. Trustee Thurmond added that when the parking lot is seal coated and re-striped, this may be a deterrent to people parking where they shouldn't.

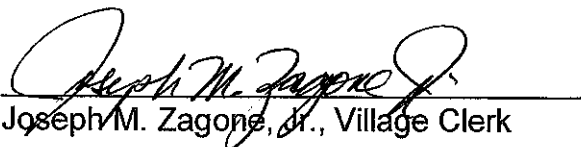
Being no further business:

Trustee Perchinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Trustee Lopez seconded the motion. Voice vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.



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Kenneth A. Peterson, Jr., Village President



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Joseph M. Zagone, Jr., Village Clerk